

THE COPPER ERA

AND MORENCI LEADER

The Oldest Copper Pro-
ducing District in the
State of Arizona.

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SIMS IS GUILTY OF
CONTEMPT TO
COURTSupreme Court Finds R. B. Sims to
Be in Contempt of Its Order But
Majority Holds That Warden Purg-
ed Himself.

PHOENIX, Dec. 11.—Failure of Warden Robert B. Sims, of the state penitentiary, to execute William Faltin on November 26, constituted contempt, in the opinion of two of the three members of the Supreme Court of Arizona, but the disavowal of Sims of any intention to disobey the judgment of the Supreme Court, is accepted at its full measure and given the force and effect of purging the contempt, in a decision handed down this afternoon. The opinion was written by Chief Justice Ross and was concurred in by Justice Franklin, and Justice Cunningham writing a brief dissenting opinion.

"It is only upon the verdict of the jury to the effect that the person is insane that the Superintendent is authorized to suspend the execution," says the opinion. "He has no power to determine the question of the prisoner's sanity or insanity. His authority for suspending the execution is an order of the court, based upon the verdict of the jury." It is pointed out that if the proceedings to determine a prisoner's sanity or insanity are initiated too late to be determined before the expiration of the death warrant, the superintendent has no power to suspend the execution.

"What seems passing strange and incomprehensible," the opinion continues, "is the discovery of Faltin's insanity should have been made so near the time fixed for his execution, and upon a legal holiday, Thanksgiving made our constitution a non-judicial day. Had Faltin been recently been committed to the custody of the superintendent of his mental unsoundness at so late a date would not cause so much wonder and surprise, but the facts are that Faltin had been in the care, custody and under the observation of the respondent almost three years."

LONG STANDING SUIT
IS FINALLY
SETTLEDSuit Against Former Board of Super-
visors is Finally Decided After
Three Years Contest.

Notice has been received in Clifton this week from the clerk of the Arizona Supreme Court to the effect that the case which has been pending in the courts for the past three years against the old Greenlee county Board of Supervisors composed of George Webster, B. F. Billingsley and J. H. T. Cosper had been reversed and remanded to the Superior Court of Cochise county where judgment was entered against the defendants in favor of Jas. V. Parks for \$65 and \$250.

The case was filed in Greenlee county in 1912 for the sum of approximately \$14,000 and was afterward transferred to Cochise county where it was tried in December of 1914. This suit resulted in a judgment against the Board for the sum of \$1582 and the case was then appealed to the Supreme Court. The total amount the old board will have to pay with the above sums compounded at the rate of 20 and 40 per cent will be \$600. The sum of \$65 was paid to H. O. Tunis, then County Engineer, as expense money in attending a good roads convention in Prescott, and the sum of \$250 was paid to W. O. Wheatley, clerk of the old board, for extra work which he claimed was entailed in making up duplicate assessment rolls at that time. According to the court Wheatley was not entitled to extra compensation as his salary was supposed to cover such contingencies.

This case has been watched with interest by not only the people of Greenlee county but county officers around the state and the end has brought to its conclusion one of the longest contested cases in the history of the new county.

Ingenious But Unsuccessful.
MIAMI, Dec. 9.—Miami has added another novel method to the many ways of importing booze into Arizona in the arrest here of J. M. Tripp who was driving an automobile with copper lined compartments for carrying liquors. Tripp was apprehended on his arrival from El Paso but denied having put the liquor in the tank.

CITIZENS' LEAGUE ENDORSED

The newly formed Citizens League was endorsed by the Clifton Town Council on Monday afternoon when a committee from the alliance met with the members of the council and the purposes of the organization were stated to that body. This afternoon the committee met with the Board of Supervisors and Sheriff and the proposition was laid before them with satisfactory results. The Board at this time agreed unanimously to the appointment of eight extra deputies to be appointed by the Sheriff, the names to be submitted to the Board tomorrow morning for confirmation.

BIG CHRISTMAS TREE
FOR CLIFTON'S
POORCommunity Christmas Tree Will Be
Erected on the Plaza for the Edifi-
cation of the City's Youngsters.

At a meeting held at the town hall on Tuesday night by representatives of the churches, lodges, schools, fire department, and in fact all local organizations, it was decided to have a municipal Christmas tree this year for the poor of Clifton, and owing to the prevailing conditions here at this time everything in the line of necessities is urgently needed for many impoverished families. In connection with the tree, which will be erected on the plaza, on Friday afternoon an excellent program will be rendered consisting of speeches, music, etc. At the conclusion of the exercises the gifts will be distributed. The tree will be decorated under the supervision of Max Jueig and will be brilliantly lighted with hundreds of electric lights. It is also the intention to have the tree in working order on next Thursday night and for several days thereafter. This celebration will be held outside of the individual exercises to be held by the churches and schools of the city.

At the meeting Tuesday night a committee was appointed to raise funds and secure clothing, provisions and other necessities from the residents. A committee was also appointed to make a house to house canvass and secure the names of needy ones together with the number of members in the families. The names will be written on a card and when these are presented to the committee at the plaza on Friday afternoon they will be entitled to their apportioned gift. Mayor Frazer was chosen as temporary chairman of the meeting and later Superintendent of Schools Davis was elected permanent chairman. Mrs. Fraps was elected secretary and Mrs. Arthur Slaughter, treasurer.

Another meeting was held on Thursday night at which time it was decided to purchase several head of beef and cut them up into sections of 5 pounds each, this being the average amount per family, and as soon as the number of families in need is ascertained, the number of cattle required will be purchased. Those appointed on this committee were Messrs. G. L. Crawford, Arthur Slaughter, and Dennis. Several assistants will be appointed to help the committee in preparing the beef for distribution.

A basket committee, to properly wrap the meat, was appointed and is composed of Mesdames Slaughter, Davis, Dennison, Fraps, Hill, Tappin and Willits. All the children in town below the age of six years will be given presents of candy, etc. Children above this age will be properly taken care of by the churches and schools at their exercises on Thursday.

It is understood that up to date approximately \$500 has been raised for this worthy object and it is thought that by the end of the week the sum will reach \$600 which will go a great way toward alleviating the needs of hundreds of suffering families. It is urged by the committees that every person in Clifton who is able will contribute either provisions, clothing or money to the fund as every available donation can be used to good advantage.

The idea of the community tree is an innovation in Clifton and coming at this time when the district is most in need of something of this

FALTIN TO ESCAPE
THE ROPEPinal County Jury, Late Last Night
Finds Phoenix Murderer Is Of Un-
sound Mind; Therefore He Cannot
Be Hanged.

PHOENIX, Dec. 15.—William Faltin is insane. In the eyes of the law the murderer of Carl Peterson of Phoenix is an irresponsible person and cannot be hanged. This was according to a verdict brought in by a Pinal county jury late tonight after deliberation extending over a period of four hours and a half.

Judge Otis E. Baughn, despite the fact that he is still suffering from the effects of a recent severe illness, remained in the court room to receive the report at 10:30 tonight.

The testimony of witnesses from among the guards and officials of the state prison, bearing upon the actions of the prisoners while in the condemned cell, is said to have brought about the present verdict. It has been stated on good legal authority, that this evidence was sufficient to convince the jury, especially when coupled with the testimony of four physicians, who, in the capacity of alienists, maintained that the subject is of unsound mind. Doctors Hughes, Beauchamp and Godfrey of Phoenix, left for the capital by automobile this evening.

The verdict was received here with intense surprise by everyone who had been following the case.

To Locate 'in Oatman'

Word from Jack Albrecht who is now in Oatman is to the effect that the automobile party, composed of himself, John Webster, Gordon Bullock, Minor Simms, Judge McWilliams and I. L. Quist, who left Clifton last week, had a most pleasant trip and that they found the new camp in a prosperous condition, so much so in fact that he has decided to open an auto stage line there in conjunction with Mr. Webster. Jack expects to arrive in Clifton tomorrow night and will leave the first of next week for Oatman in one of his cars and he desires to take with him a party of at least six persons. He will leave before Christmas, or as soon after as possible in order to cover the 600 mile journey before the rains set in. Anyone desiring to make the trip will do well to notify him as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made in plenty of time.

OPTIMISTIC OVER
OUTLOOK AT
OATMANColorado Operator Now in Prescott
Believes New Field Has a Great
Future.

Reviewing the outlook of the mineral field of Oatman, after a residence of over one year, Richard Cline, a Colorado operator, yesterday expressed himself in the following pronounced manner:

"One hears unfavorable reports of this and that property, and the general situation is permitted to be regarded as uninviting among a certain element. But, from the standpoint of individual observation, founded on examinations made, the contrary will be proven, and in a very short time. The district is solidly established as gold bearing, and I will cite a few instances that cannot be disputed. The United Eastern is out of the stage of speculation. Coming in as actual producers are the Ivanhoe, the Big Jim, the River Range, the Times, and a few others. There are 40 camps in an active state, and such a scene of practical operation has never been equalled in the West. The district is without doubt the home of some of the biggest gold bearing low grade mines in the country, and it is this feature which is attracting big mining operators with plenty of capital. There is permanency ahead for the Oatman belt, and time will substantiate this condition."

Mr. Cline comes to this section to sample placer ground in Walnut Grove for a Colorado syndicate of hydraulic miners, after which he returns to Mohave county.

Kind the good it will do will be inestimable and to this end the committees require more the necessities of life than merely gifts of an evanescent nature. Everyone is invited to be present on Friday afternoon and enjoy the exercises which will start at 1:30 o'clock.

ST. LOUIS SECECTED
BY DEMOCRATSMissouri Metropolis Wins 1916 Con-
vention Over Chicago and Dallas.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The Democratic national convention of 1916 will be held at St. Louis, beginning Wednesday, June 14, at noon. The Democratic National Committee, in session here the past week, named the convention city and adopted resolutions calling for the renomination and re-election of Woodrow Wilson as "the trusted leader of national Democracy."

Chicago and Dallas contested with St. Louis for the honor of the convention, but St. Louis easily lead from the start and won on the second ballot.

It has been customary heretofore for national conventions to begin work on Tuesday. The fact that Tuesday fell on the 13th next year may or may not have had something to do with the determination of the Democratic committee to begin the proceedings a day later.

Will Be Short Session

The official explanation, however, was to the effect that the convention would not require more than three or four days to complete its work and it would not be too late in the week to start on Wednesday.

Political leaders in Washington regard it as practically certain that Chicago and a late June date will be selected for the Republican convention by the national committee of that party in session here today.

Women suffragists and anti-suffragists in stirring speeches debated the question of votes for women for an hour before the National Democratic Committee.

The committee held a public session in a hotel ballroom to hear the women, and the place was packed to the doors.

Six suffrage leaders told the committee that the women of the nation were looking to the Democratic party to champion a federal suffrage amendment, either in the present congress or in the platform of the next Democratic national convention. Two leaders of the national society opposed to suffrage argued that the party already had declared that suffrage is wholly a state question, and that, moreover, a majority of American women did not want to be enfranchised.

The committee took no action and adjourned.

RECALL PETITION IS
RECEIVING BIG
SUPPORTCommittee Report Rapid Progress in
Obtaining Many Signatures.

That the movement for the recall of Governor Hunt is going merrily along, is indicated by the following statement received in Clifton yesterday from the recall committee:

"After about ten days work in its fight for law enforcement and good government the recall committee is glad to be able to report to the public that we have made far more rapid progress than the most optimistic of us dreamed in the beginning. We find that from fifty to sixty percent of those approached signed the petition and seventy-five to eighty percent state that they are ready to vote for Governor Hunt's recall as soon as the election is initiated.

"Up to this time we have secured in the neighborhood of 4,000 names from Maricopa county alone.

"We wish to thank those who from all parts of the state have so kindly sent in contributions for our working expenses. We beg to urge those who have received our letter of December 2nd to respond as soon as possible.

"(Signed) Recall Committee, O. S. Stapley, chairman; J. A. Ray, Secretary, Henry Mitchell."

Rough Treatment.

PHOENIX, Dec. 9.—Claiming that he was beaten over the head by a brakeman and thrown from a freight train, Conrad Waldorf has filed suit against the Arizona Eastern railroad company for \$10,000 damages. Waldorf was riding on a freight train near Bowie when he was put off the train.

WANTS PROTECTION

PHOENIX, Dec. 15.—Protection for the Morenci Water Company's plant was requested by officials in a telegram to the Arizona Corporation Commission. It was referred to Governor Hunt. The appeal stated that reports of strikers were believed to be planning to tamper with the town's water supply.

Sheriff Cash informed the Corporation Commission he had assumed charge of the Arizona Copper company's electric plant at Clifton at the company's request. This was in answer to the commission's assertion the sheriff had violated the law by taking charge without first obtaining the commission's permission.

VILLALOBOS HANGS
FOR MURDERFirst Execution by the State Since
the Days of Territorial Rule.

NAME OF THE HANGMAN SECRET

Expected that Precedent Will Result
in Death of Eleven Others.

PHOENIX, Dec. 11.—Ramon Villalobos, murderer of Deputy Sheriff Phineas Brown at Ray in August, 1914, was hanged yesterday at the state prison at Florence.

The trap was sprung at 3:15 and fourteen minutes later the first man to be executed since Arizona became a state, was pronounced dead.

Villalobos, accompanied by Father Peter Heriz, walked to the death chamber with a firm step, repeating after the priest a brief supplication for mercy. He took his place with little assistance and maintained his innocence until the black cap had been adjusted. The trap was sprung by a prison guard whose name is withheld.

The Spanish Alliance Society of Florence took charge of the body, Villalobos having no known relatives in this country.

Period Placed on "Cause."

When the drop was sprung at the penitentiary at Florence yesterday afternoon and Ramon Villalobos swung away into eternity a period was placed to one of the most remarkable battles for a "cause" that has ever been waged in the United States.

For nearly four years the opponents of capital punishment have been able to stave off the infliction of the death penalty, and only after every resource known to the law had been availed of was the black cap adjusted over the head of the Mexican slayer of Deputy Sheriff Phineas Brown.

Few Witness Spectacle

There were few witnesses outside of prison officials, the attending priest, a couple of newspaper men, and Assistant Attorney-General Geo. Harben, who represented the attorney-generals office, fifteen in all. Villalobos was shaved and ready for the terrible ordeal as early as 8:30 o'clock this morning.

Villalobos said he slept like a baby last night. He was asleep when Father Heriz called at 6:30 o'clock this morning. He ate no breakfast and when lunch was taken to him at noon he stated he did not care to eat while dying.

The condemned man made a statement to the priest in which he is said to have maintained his innocence.

Pardon Board Absent.

None of the members of the pardon board went to the prison today. Chairman Frank Trott is ill with grip and Attorney-General Wiley Jones stated that there was no reason why the board should be present.

The board late yesterday reviewed W. W. Kermeen, who was to hang today, until January 7, which is also the date set for the execution of William Faltin.

The question of the sanity of Kermeen and Faltin is to be determined before they are hanged.

With the establishment of the precedent of yesterday's hanging it is expected that the eleven other condemned men will be executed in accordance with the law.

The fight against capital punishment will be carried on and presented to the voters again next fall through an initiative petition.

PEACE OVERTURES
MEET WITH NO
SUCCESSMeeting Held in Morenci This Week
to Pave Way For Peace Negotia-
tions Meets With Failure.

On Monday night at the court house in Morenci representatives of the mine managers and members of the strikers organization met in conference with a view of discussing questions relating to a tentative settlement of the strike which is in its fourth month of duration. This is the first attempt at a settlement since a committee of the striking miners met with the mine managers in El Paso in October and from which there were no direct results.

Those present at the conference of Monday night representing the companies were Frank McLean, mine superintendent of the D. C. Co., W. P. Weller, chief clerk in the D. C. general offices and Attorney Casey, while a committee of twenty strikers, including President Rico and Organizer DeLara, represented the strikers. The meeting was friendly in every way and a note of harmony was manifest throughout between the two factions. A general discussion of the situation was held and the question of settlement was viewed from every angle but as usual the recognition of the Western Federation was the stumbling block and no nearer decision to a solution was reached.

A second meeting was held Tuesday morning and one was also scheduled to be held in the afternoon but through the failure of most of the principals to appear no meeting was held. Messrs. McLean and Casey later returned to Duncan after spending several days in the district for the purpose of making plans for the above conference. That the conference should have resulted without bearing fruit is a matter of deep regret to the people of the district and it is hoped that at this time of the year when good will is the prevailing spirit the world over that the shadows of industrial strife may be dissipated and that negotiations of a harmonious settlement may materialize with the start of the new year.

GONZALES' XMAS GIFT IS
HEAD OF GEN. HERNANDEZ

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 15.—(By mail to Laredo)—General Gonzales, commander at Mexico City for the de facto government, received a telegram that the head of General Hernandez, former intimate friend of Diaz and relative of Huerta, is being shipped to him from Esparanza, state of Vera Cruz, as a "Christmas present."

Hernandez was more than 80 years old.

According to advices sent the bureau of information at military headquarters, the head was severed while the body lay on the battlefield. It was carefully boxed by the victor of the fight, Lieutenant Colonel Galicia, who planned to express it direct to Gonzales, but not desiring to trust the trophy to the express company, he sent it by a special messenger. He selected Lieutenant Gomez for the task.

Gonzales, when he heard what had been done, forbade the chief of the information bureau giving out further copies of the telegram. Morning papers suppressed the story. Hernandez was widely known throughout Mexico as a prominent member of the Cientificos party.

NACAZARI TO OPEN

DOUGLAS, Arizona, Dec. 14.—Although the Nacozari railroad will probably not be completely repaired for several weeks, it is planned by the company management to reopen the mines and mill of the Morenci Copper company at Nacozari in about 10 days.

Winston Churchill has gone to the trenches. Well, he should be used to facing charges.

As a general thing a divorce suit nets the lawyers half a dozen or so new ones a piece.

Italian soldiers get a little wine each day, but we seem to miss the old-time Roman punch.

Colonel Watterston is laying for the pacifists. That is why they call him Marse Hen.